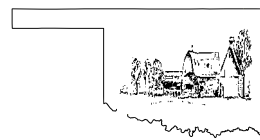


# OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER

March 17, 2003



Oklahoma  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

A combined contribution with  
-Cooperative Extension Service  
-USDA Farm Service Agency  
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

## Warm Weather Continues to Improve Wheat Condition

**March 16** - With warmer than normal temperatures and sunlight across much of the State, wheat and native pastures have advanced in growth. Row crop field preparation has advanced with the warm conditions. Only small amounts of precipitation were recorded across the State. The Southeast, East Central, and South Central received the most moisture but even those amounts were less than ½ inch. Rain is needed across the state to improve crop conditions. Moisture supplies for both topsoil and subsoil dropped slightly last week and were rated adequate to short. There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	7	35	56	2
Last Week	3	23	70	4
Last Year	44	32	23	1

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	7	27	65	1
Last Week	8	22	68	2
Last Year	46	28	25	1

**Small Grains:** Winter wheat was rated in mostly fair to good condition. Wheat jointing increased 20 points to 35 percent of the crop from last week and was ahead of the 5 year average of 33 percent. Rye and oats conditions were rated as mostly fair to good. Oats planted reached 85 percent compared to 84 percent last year and the 5 year average of 83 percent.

**Row Crops:** Seedbed preparation made significant progress with the warm conditions. Corn, cotton and sorghum were ahead of normal for seedbed preparation. Peanuts, with 12 percent of the seedbed prepared, was slightly below the 5 year average of 13 percent. Soybeans were following normal trends with 18 percent of the seedbeds prepared.

### SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 16, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	1	5	29	54	11
Rye	2	5	28	56	9
Oats	3	7	46	41	3

**Pasture:** Warm temperatures throughout the week has been beneficial to pasture growth. Producers were able to cut back on the heavy supplement feeding in some areas. Statewide, range and pastures were rated mostly fair to good.

**Livestock:** Livestock were rated in mostly fair to good condition. Producers were busy pulling cattle off of wheat pasture. Prospects for hay for the rest of the season was mostly average. Cattle marketings were running slightly below average. The average price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week and averaged \$78.89 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds decreased from last year and averaged \$ 74.36 per cwt.

### LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending March 16, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	7	41	46	5
Pasture & Range	6	19	50	24	1

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary  
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**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

<b>OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS</b>									
Week Ending March 16, 2003									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat - Jointing	35	15	11	33	Sorghum Seedbed Prepared	17	2	12	12
Oats- Planted	85	60	84	83	Soybeans Seedbed Prepared	18	5	13	18
Jointing	1	n/a	1	13	Peanuts Seedbed Prepared	12	8	22	13
Corn - Seedbed Prepared	32	19	26	24	Cotton Seedbed Prepared	32	n/a	34	29

**WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 16, 2003** - Temperatures ranged from 14 degrees at Hooker on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to 87 degrees at Hollis on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. in 3 of 9 districts to 0.41 in. Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 34 degrees at Miami on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to 65 degrees at Burneyville on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending March 16, 2003							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to March 16, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	74	35	54	0.00	0.10	- 0.74	12
West Central	72	39	55	0.00	0.02	- 1.22	1
Southwest	73	42	57	0.05	0.16	- 1.00	14
North Central	68	36	51	0.00	0.31	- 1.08	22
Central	70	41	55	0.22	0.33	- 1.34	20
South Central	72	46	59	0.36	0.34	- 1.49	19
Northeast	67	38	52	0.01	0.15	- 1.75	8
East Central	68	42	55	0.36	0.39	- 1.72	18
Southeast	71	50	57	0.41	0.47	- 1.84	20